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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

396th Meeting

Wednesday, 8 June 1994, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER . . . . . (Austria)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Forna (Romania), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Attendance by non-members of the Committee

The Chairman: I should like to inform members of the Committee that I have received a note verbale from Saudi Arabia in which it requests permission to attend the current session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as an observer. I should therefore like to suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite that delegation to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate.

This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature, and does not involve any decision by the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to delegations.

If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

Organization of work

The Chairman: Since many delegations still wish to speak in the general exchange of views, it is my intention to continue and conclude the general debate at this afternoon's session. Upon completion of the general debate, we will immediately begin our consideration of agenda item 4, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes". Time permitting, we will also begin consideration of item 5, "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session", and item 7, "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space". Following the past practice of the Committee, these items will be considered jointly. I urge all delegations wishing to speak on them to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

General exchange of views *(continued)*

Mr. Bourez (Argentina) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Since this is the first statement by the delegation of Argentina at this session, I should like to join previous speakers in expressing our satisfaction at seeing Mr. Hohenfellner again presiding over our Committee, this time in the splendid city of Vienna, which continues to demonstrate its traditional hospitality and cordiality.

I should also like to thank the Chairman for his clear introductory statement, which reminded us of the progress made in the last year, as well as of the various subjects that we shall be discussing at the present session. We are sure that his proven experience in guiding this Committee will enable us to continue our fruitful endeavours in this forum.

My delegation would also like to thank Mr. Jasentuliyana for his statement and the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the efforts that they have made in organizing our session.

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As the Argentine delegation said during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, my country is currently in the process of reorganizing its space structure with a view to making it consistent both with new international circumstances and with national circumstances and fitting it to the civilian nature of the space programme and its legal and political structure.

Aware of the importance of space science and technology in the contemporary world, we have decided to adopt a new approach in our space activities, giving priority to a better relationship between our national interests, available resources and efforts to ensure international cooperation with third countries. We are working out the necessary means and ways of perfecting and adopting a new space plan which will deal with all these aspects.

In this spirit, we have set up a new national space activities commission that is entirely subject to the national Government and is of an entirely civilian nature and will ensure the exclusively peaceful use of outer space.

The new Argentine national plan is centered on the economic applications of space science and technology for the benefit of the community. It is not based on security considerations, which subject community interests to military considerations.

In this connection, both the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces of our country have given their full support to the civilian nature of the Argentine space programme. In this context, we are analysing alternatives for the recycling of the Falda del Carmen facilities, which are subject to a study that could result in the setting up of a centre for space activities in our country.

Over the last year, the Argentine Republic has continued its programmes and space projects, ensuring objective priority to be given to those programmes in order to make them consistent with the current circumstances of the country.

The major achievements over this period, as a result of the application of new national policies, are centred on the development and construction of the scientific research satellite SAC-B, a project which is being carried out jointly with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and with the cooperation of Brazil and Italy, and the putting out to tender of work on the Nahuel satellite communications system, the development and realization of which are being carried out without any State funding.

The Argentine Government also took a decision, in December 1993, to initiate a programme for the development, construction and launching into orbit of a series of small satellites, the first of which, known as SAC-C, will be constructed in cooperation with NASA and will be designed for observation of the surface of the Earth. This satellite will be situated in the polar orbit and will contain a medium-resolution camera built in Argentina in cooperation with Germany. It is due to be launched in 1998.

Since space activities are intrinsically international, international cooperation in this field is essential and vital, and coordination is required to match interests and capacities and the various resources of all our various countries. In this context, our country attaches priority to all promotion of international cooperation and to projects that will allow Argentina to initiate processes of cooperation with third countries in the field of the exclusively civilian uses of outer space. It is for that reason that the Argentine Government wishes to make available to other countries, through the negotiation of bilateral agreements, data which will be obtained through the scientific activities of the SAC-C satellite, which should be made available within seven days.

Also, the Argentine Government has attached particular importance and given its support to the implementation in our country, together with the European Space Agency, of the "Second Euro-Latin American Space Days", which were held last May with the participation of more than 100 experts and officials from various countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

Another area of particular attention for our country is the initiative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to establish regional space technology and science education centres. We wish to reiterate the full support of the Argentine Government for that initiative and to offer our cooperation and participation in the regional centre to be established in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We also wish to join other delegations which have expressed interest in proceeding to an analysis of the methods and systems of work of our Committee and its two Subcommittees. We believe that this subject requires our attention, and we think that the establishment of a working group would make it possible to deal with this issue properly and perhaps produce some suggestions on patterns

of operation so that the Committee and its two Subcommittees might be more effective and efficient in their work.

All delegations have agreed that in the new international order that has recently emerged, the use of outer space represents an activity which deserves priority attention from States.

In conclusion, the Argentine delegation wishes to reiterate its unwavering support for the work of this Committee, as an important forum for interaction and the exchange of opinion and experience between our countries and as a body that formulates guidelines for space activities, with a view to perfecting international legal norms in this sphere and bringing them into line with the progress which has been made in recent years in space science and technology.

Mrs. Ok (Turkey): Since this is my first statement here, allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation has full confidence that your able chairmanship will lead this session to a successful conclusion. I also wish to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat, and in particular to Mr. Jasentuliyana and his staff, for their excellent work in preparing for this session of the Committee.

As a member of the Committee since 1977, Turkey is deeply interested in its work and in that of its Subcommittees. Space activities are rather new in Turkey. However, both the legal and the scientific and technical aspects of the issue are closely followed and observed by the Turkish authorities, and the necessary organizational adjustments are then made to respond efficiently to the requirements brought about by such activities.

A major space activity in Turkey in 1993 was the Eurasian Space Symposium, which was attended by approximately 250 scientists and engineers from 16 countries. A plenary discussion at the end of that meeting resulted in a decision to establish a standing committee to make it a traditional event. The committee, with members from Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Khazakstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, decided to hold the Second Eurasian Space Symposium in Kiev in September 1994 and the third one in Baku in 1995.

In 1993, the construction of the National Observatory Site proceeded on schedule near the southern city of Antalya, at an altitude of 2,400 metres above sea level, away from optical and electromagnetic interference. The facilities will be open to international use and collaboration.

In addition, the first national telecommunications satellite, TURKSAT 1B, owned and to be operated by the Turkish PTT, is scheduled for launch in July 1994, following the unfortunate failure of TURKSAT 1A during its launch in January 1994. Built by the French company Aerospatiale, the satellite will again be launched by an Ariane rocket from French Guyana, this time to a 31-East geosynchronous position.

The satellite will carry 16 transponders operating in the Ku band and covering three geographical regions. These are centred over Turkey, Western Europe and Central Asia. The types of services provided by TURKSAT 1B include direct television and radio broadcasting; telephone, fax, data and telex services via IBS stations; support of private networks for bank, hotel, airlines and so on; remote control systems; diplomatic services; and security services.

Television reception by 60-120 cm. antennas will be possible in individual homes to accommodate the five public and dozens of private broadcasting channels in Turkey. The satellite will be controlled by two ground stations near Ankara, one main and one back-up station. The designed life of TURKSAT 1B is a minimum of 10 years, but it is expected to be 13 years.

Concluding my remarks, I wish to reiterate that, as a party to the outer space Treaty of 1967 and other relevant international arrangements, we highly honour the guiding principles, such as the principle that the exploration and use of outer space must be for peaceful purposes and should be carried out for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of the degree of their levels of development. We also believe that international cooperation to the broadest possible extent is indispensable to the implementation of such principles.

Mr. Weyens (Belgium) *(interpretation from French)*: At the outset, I should like to take this opportunity to greet you, Sir, the other members of the Bureau and the delegations of the countries represented here.

In reviewing the questions to be addressed during the current session, I should like first to express Belgium's satisfaction that the question of space debris is being taken up for the first time this year by the Scientific and

Technical Subcommittee. We feel that this matter should be dealt with there in an in-depth manner before being analysed from the legal standpoint.

As to the problem of nuclear power sources, my delegation entirely concurs with the conclusions of the Legal Subcommittee concerning the revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The analysis by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the utilization of nuclear power sources should entail a year-long suspension of the work of the Legal Subcommittee on this subject. It took nearly 15 years of discussion before the General Assembly adopted these Principles in 1992. Belgium therefore attaches no urgency to their revision.

As to the application of legal principles aimed at guaranteeing that all States share in the spin-off benefits of space exploration and research, my delegation would like to stress that any cooperation in space activities should be carried out freely between sovereign States on a bilateral or multilateral basis - for instance, through the European Space Agency. A charter of principles favouring developing countries is therefore not particularly desirable.

I should like to thank the secretariat for its report on questions relating to the possible convening of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation wishes to stress that if such a conference were to be held it should be prepared very carefully and given a well-defined objective. Furthermore, my delegation feels that we should also apply the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, a matter tackled by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its last session, on the basis of the report of the Working Group of the Whole entrusted with evaluating the implementation of those recommendations.

As to the Committee's possible expansion, the Chairman should pursue the consultations initiated last year on this question so that a recommendation can be drafted by the Committee this year. My delegation would accept a limited and balanced expansion, and fully supports the request of Spain that it be allotted a permanent seat.

As to the organization of work, my delegation feels that we could further improve our work if we showed greater flexibility in drawing up the agenda of the Committee and its Subcommittees. Perhaps we should also consider reducing the length of the sessions, particularly those of the Legal Subcommittee.

I should like briefly to describe the space activities of my country. As the fourth largest net contributor to the budget of the European Space Agency (ESA), Belgium is an active participant in various Agency projects at a very high technological level, in the optional space infrastructure programmes, Columbus and Ariane-5, and in the user programmes such those for Earth monitoring, telecommunications and microgravity.

Belgium also takes part in programmes aimed at highlighting the importance of cooperation. One of these is the MIRAS programme, which involves Russian-Belgian scientific cooperation to carry an infrared Earth-monitoring spectrometer on board the Russian orbital space station MIR 2. This will make it possible to carry out continuous global observations for several years.

Belgium is also taking part in the SPICAM-S project, which aims to determine the composition of the atmosphere of the planet Mars by sunlight analysis. This project is an experiment developed in collaboration with the Institut d'Aéronomie de Belgique, the French Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques, the French Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales and the Institute for Space Research of the Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation.

Belgium's work on the use of satellite images to support lasting development and the efficient management of natural resources in developing countries is also important. Since 1985 there has been a national research programme on remote-sensing by satellite, land management and mapping and on their applications in developing countries. A second phase of the programme began in 1989 in order to diversify the fields of research and to develop operational applications. In the third phase of the programme, initiated in 1993, the emphasis is on the development of new applications based on geographical information systems.

Following the Rio Conference on sustainable development, Belgium signed the biodiversity and climate Conventions, as well as the Forest Principles, committing itself to applying remote-sensing and geographical information systems.

An intergovernmental agreement between Belgium and France guarantees Belgium's participation in the development of a remote-sensing system by SPOT satellite. An extension of this project, which the European Union is backing to the tune of 50 per cent, aims at monitoring natural and cultivated continental ecosystems through the

VEGETATION instrument to be carried by the SPOT 4 satellite.

Belgium plans to construct a low-orbit communications mini-satellite to meet the needs of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian organizations.

In conclusion, my delegation hopes that at this session the Committee will again achieve fruitful results, and we wish the Committee every success.

Mr. Fiuza Neto (Brazil): Permit me to convey, at the outset, the satisfaction of the Brazilian delegation at seeing Ambassador Hohenfellner once again presiding over the deliberations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). His experience and dedication to this Committee, which have been amply demonstrated in the past, will certainly be needed during the present session, given the important questions we face in the days ahead. He can be assured of my delegation's full cooperation.

The Brazilian delegation would also like to thank the Government of Austria for its commitment to the continuing excellence of this body, a commitment that is evident in the high priority accorded to the process of relocating the Committee's headquarters to Vienna.

Before moving on to the substantive items on our agenda, I would like to extend a word of sincere gratitude to the Chairmen of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and of the Legal Subcommittees, respectively, Professor John Carver and Dr. Václav Mikulka, in recognition of their essential role in ensuring the successful conclusion of the difficult but highly productive 1994 sessions of those subsidiary bodies.

The Brazilian delegation would also like publicly to pay tribute to the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for their personal sacrifice translated into such a smooth transfer to Vienna, to the benefit of all the members of this Committee.

Finally, we would like to thank Ambassador Aurel-Dragos Munteanu for his tenure as Vice-Chairman of COPUOS and wish you, Ambassador Petru Forna, success in your new role in the Committee.

This past Monday we welcomed Ambassador Hohenfellner's comprehensive analysis of past and present achievements in the domain of outer space, and of the responsibilities which lie ahead for this Committee, particularly as regards the present session.

As he pointed out, one of the main purposes of COPUOS is to promote international cooperation in outer space for the benefit and in the interest of all mankind. It is the belief of the Brazilian delegation that never has the international scenario been as favourable as it is at present for the achievement of this goal. It is therefore imperative that we seize the opportunity to act.

The Secretary-General, in his timely report entitled "International cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-cold-war era", underlines that

> "the time has come to expand international cooperation in space activities, through both a revitalization of existing mechanisms and the development of new mechanisms for international cooperation."

and that

> "new initiatives should be taken to ensure that all countries have access to the benefits of space activities." *(A/48/221, para. 4)*

It can hardly be disputed that this Committee constitutes the best existing mechanism for the promotion of international cooperation in outer space. However, there also remains no doubt that much could be done to improve the effectiveness of COPUOS and increase the benefits of its activities. We must strive, therefore, to address international cooperation in outer space in all its aspects, be they political, economic, security or environmental.

The ongoing discussions in the Legal Subcommittee on the item regarding outer space benefits represent one of the ways through which this body can deal in an all-encompassing manner with the question of international cooperation. As Ambassador Hohenfellner appropriately stated yesterday, the constructive debate held on this subject during the thirty-third session of that Subcommittee allows for a great deal of optimism and hope for future progress, not only in terms of the item itself, but in the sense of developing a new consciousness of the importance of international cooperation truly geared towards the benefit of all mankind.

It seems odd, on the other hand, that this Committee has been kept out of the discussion of the security aspects of cooperation in outer space as a whole -

namely, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and the prevention of its militarization. It seems evident that, as these questions are obviously interrelated, they should be addressed accordingly. Therefore, the establishment of an effective dialogue between COPUOS and the Conference on Disarmament could eliminate some of the loopholes in the treatment of this significant aspect of international cooperation in outer space.

As regards the environmental aspects of international cooperation in outer space, there is a growing awareness that space technology offers a unique means of monitoring and protecting the environment. The important results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, bear witness to this fact. As this awareness grows ever faster, the international community will turn to the skies, and question why the outer space environment, as an extension of the Earth's environment, has not yet been the object of comprehensive treatment by this Committee.

The inclusion of the item on space debris on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was thus long overdue. This is made evident by the growing pressure to have space debris taken up by the Legal Subcommittee as well. When we address this matter, we must keep in mind, as the representative of the Netherlands appropriately pointed out in his statement yesterday, that COPUOS was for a long time a pioneer body in the elaboration of international law, often anticipating the turn of events. We cannot, therefore, allow this Committee to be overtaken by events. Rather, we must endeavour to place it once again in the vanguard of international lawmaking.

In this spirit, the Brazilian delegation suggested last March, during the thirty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, that a seminar on the legal implications of the existence of space debris in the geostationary orbit be organized by COPUOS to provide additional input to our deliberations. The very interesting and informative statement made yesterday by the representative of the International Law Association (ILA) seems to indicate not only that the discussion of this theme is necessary and urgent, but also that it must be handled in a comprehensive manner. We hope, therefore, that such a seminar is held in the near future.

The Brazilian delegation feels that the thirty-seventh session of the Committee provides an excellent opportunity for reflection on our future work. Not only must we decide how to address, from the point of view of substance, the aspects of international cooperation that I have mentioned, but we must also consider, from a structural and organizational perspective, how we are going to do so.

The possibility of an enlargement of the outer space Committee has already been the object of previous discussions in the Committee. As we had the opportunity to state last year, the acceptance of new Committee members is agreeable to the Brazilian delegation, since it would only reflect the growth in the membership of the United Nations in recent years. However, any enlargement must be based on the principle of equitable geographic distribution, taking into account the interests of the various regional groups, with a view to correcting existing imbalances in the proportionality of representation in the Committee. An acceptable formula can certainly be arrived at, so long as delegations show a reasonable degree of flexibility and a spirit of compromise.

Reference has been made by some delegations to the possibility of examining at this session of the Committee the reduction of the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and in particular of the Legal Subcommittee. Although the Brazilian delegation is prepared to participate in informal consultations on this subject, it firmly believes that this should be dealt with by the Legal Subcommittee itself, as it has never been the tradition of this Committee to impose vertically on its Subcommittees decisions regarding matters that have not yet matured in those subsidiary bodies.

Furthermore, it must be remembered that only last year the Legal Subcommittee took the step of adopting a set of procedural rules regarding its working methods. These consensus measures were applied during the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee by its Chairman, and achieved a high degree of success. Although I am unable to provide exact figures, the efficiency ratings of this year's session far exceeded the average ratings for the United Nations as a whole. This, at least for us, is an indication that a similar procedure could be followed in future sessions with equal success and, more important, without compromising the Legal Subcommittee's ability to deal with the substantive items of its agenda.

The Committee will also have to examine the possibility of convening a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 3). It is our understanding that such an event could conceivably constitute a window of opportunity for

identifying the new mechanisms for international cooperation alluded to by the Secretary-General in his report. Therefore, the decisions which might devolve from a third UNISPACE conference must not be construed as representing a substitute for this Committee, or as an indication that the Committee is unable to fulfil its main objectives. Rather, they should be carefully analysed as an opportunity to enhance and complement the very work of the Committee.

In this sense, Brazil favours the holding of a third UNISPACE. We do so, however, on the grounds that it must be preceded by a careful preparatory process in order to define a set of sharply focused objectives. Also, the follow-up of such a conference must be properly thought out in advance, so that its decisions can be duly implemented. It is the position of my delegation, therefore, that the achievement of a consensus with regard to the various aspects of holding UNISPACE 3 is essential for success. The working papers presented at the thirty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the report presented by the secretariat constitute a good basis for our discussions on this topic.

Before closing, I would like to touch very briefly upon some of the cooperative enterprises in which my country is engaged. I would like to highlight especially in this regard the continuing participation of our National Institute for Space Research (INPE) in the Programme on Space Applications, through the offer of training fellowships in various areas relating to space activities.

Brazil, as members know, launched in February of 1993 its first indigenous satellite, the SCD-1, on an environmental data gathering mission. Earlier this year, a Brazilian delegation visited Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, with a view to discussing forms of cooperation in the utilization of the satellite. A similar mission will soon be sent to other countries of the region, so that maximum cooperation can be extracted with respect to this accomplishment of the Brazilian space programme. A second satellite of the same type is scheduled to be launched next year, and a third data-collection satellite has already been approved for development.

As of August 1994, Brazil will be taking part, through INPE, in a cooperative programme with the United States involving the launching of 33 sounding rockets from the Alcantara launch range in north-eastern Brazil. This project, known as Guara, will be geared towards the study of the Earth's magnetic equator.

Brazil is also developing two remote sensing satellites in conjunction with China. This enterprise, known as the CBERS project, constitutes the first cooperative endeavour of its kind between developing countries. Brazil places a high priority on the successful conclusion of the CBERS project, which can serve as a paradigm for future cooperation in space technology between developing countries.

In February of this year, the Brazilian Space Agency was created to coordinate all aspects of the Brazilian space programme. This civilian agency is directly under the control of the presidency of the Republic, and will, we hope, facilitate cooperation with similar organizations in other countries.

At the same time, the Brazilian Government formally announced its decision to observe the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime. This decision stems from Brazil's commitment to international efforts with regard to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

We believe that these measures will enable Brazil to participate more effectively in international cooperation in outer space, with a view to promoting the social and economic development of its people.

Mr. Lee (Republic of Korea): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to extend our appreciation to the Chairman and through him to the members of the Committee for giving us this opportunity to take part in the current session of the Committee as an observer. I am confident that Ambassador Hohenfellner's skilful leadership will guide this session to a fruitful conclusion.

Allow me also to pay a tribute to the Government of Austria and to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, headed by Mr. Jasentuliyana, for having so successfully completed the smooth transfer to Vienna and the new start of the Office in its new home.

The recent changes in the international environment have opened a new era for increased international cooperation in space-related activities. Indeed, space exploration and technology are no longer seen as a race between East and West.

When this Committee was first established, the earnest desire of the international community was to avoid the extension of cold-war rivalry into outer space and to reserve this common heritage of mankind exclusively for

peaceful purposes. As the world has entered a post-cold-war era, the Committee is now in a position to focus its energy on its positive mandate: how to promote the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and to ensure that the benefits derived from this exploration are made available to all States.

As was pointed out by the Chairman in his opening statement, the recent cooperative space mission between the United States and Russia has heightened the newly emerging dimensions of international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space. In the years ahead, all of us have to redouble our efforts to make full use of the present momentum to further strengthen international cooperation in space activities for the benefit of all humanity.

This being my first intervention in this Committee, allow me to present the basic position of my Government regarding international space activities.

First, as outer space is a common heritage as well as the last frontier of mankind, we believe that the exploration and utilization of outer space must be exclusively for peaceful purposes and devoted to the common benefit and interests of all States, regardless of their stage of economic and scientific development, thereby contributing to the economic and social development of all nations.

Secondly, rapid developments in space technology and its applications necessitate efforts on the part of the international community to regulate and manage both ongoing and future space activities by establishing an appropriate legal framework. My delegation is of the view that, in the course of establishing this framework, the needs of both developed and developing countries should be fully taken into account in a balanced manner.

Thirdly, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space should be further strengthened to encourage the sharing of space resources and technology. In this regard, my Government strongly supports a more active United Nations role in this field and believes that various national, regional and international programmes to promote international space activities should be developed within the framework of the United Nations.

Fourthly, we believe that a third UNISPACE conference should be held in the near future in view of the rapid political and technical changes affecting space programmes undertaken around the world.

I should now like to introduce briefly the space activities undertaken thus far by the Republic of Korea.

We have participated actively in space activities over the past few years. In 1992 and 1993, we successfully launched two scientific satellites, KITSAT-1 and KITSAT-2, respectively. In the middle of 1995, we will start operating the first Korea Satellite System (KOREASAT), which will then be followed in 1998 by the launching of another satellite, the Korea Multi-purpose Satellite System (KOMSAT). KOMSAT will be used for Earth observation, covering land, sea and coastal zones, as well as for telecommunications and broadcasting.

My delegation particularly wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that, though Korea is yet to become a member of COPUOS, it has already made contributions to the efforts of the United Nations to promote international space activities.

As part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, my Government hosted the United Nations Workshop on Space Communications for Development in 1992 in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs. At this Workshop, the Republic of Korea was designated as the site for the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communication Conference, and in cooperation with this organization, my Government is currently preparing for another workshop on satellite communications in November this year.

The Korean delegation participated in both the thirty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the thirty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee this year, as an observer, and followed discussions there with keen interest.

The Republic of Korea is also an active member of other major international organizations regulating space activities such as INTELSAT (International Telecommunication Satellite Organization) and INMARSAT (International Maritime Satellite Organization).

My Government attaches great importance to the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In light of its basic policy and the space-related activities I described earlier, my Government firmly believes that it has every reason to participate fully in the work of this Committee as a full member. This desire has been formally notified to the President of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in a letter addressed to him on 31 May 1994.

My Government believes that the issue related to membership of this Committee should be dealt with as a matter of urgency in light of the rapid advances in space sciences and technology and the significant increase in the number of States with space capabilities, including the Republic of Korea.

In particular, given the increasing importance of this Committee in the post-cold-war era, with its exclusive responsibility for matters related to outer space, the Committee is called upon to take immediate steps to incorporate active and interested States so as to remain relevant and effective under the rapidly changing international circumstances related to space activities.

My delegation believes that membership of the Committee should be open primarily to those States which are able and willing to contribute significantly to the work of the Committee. My delegation also supports the strengthening of the Committee by way of either expanding its membership or introducing an election system, while maintaining the principle of equitable geographical representation.

As one of the Member States which makes a significant contribution to the United Nations regular budget and which carries out increasingly significant space activities, the Republic of Korea is fully committed to enhancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and stands ready to participate fully in and make a contribution to the work of this Committee.

My delegation hopes that the current session of the Committee will be able to reach consensus on this urgent issue so that my country can attend the next session of the Committee as a full member.

Mr. Hodgkins (United States of America): I should like to begin by extending my delegation's congratulations on your election, Sir, as Vice-Chairman and on Ambassador Hohenfellner's election as Chairman of this session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

July 1994 marks the 25th anniversary of the lunar landing of Apollo XI. On 20 July 1969, Astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped on the lunar surface, telling millions on Earth who saw and heard him that it was "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind". The first clear photographs of the Earth taken in preparation for that mission caused the people of the world to view Earth in a new way - as a "blue marble" in the vastness of space, a single environment with unique and overwhelming significance to mankind. The modern environmental movement was galvanized in part by this new perception of the Earth and the need to protect it and the life it supports. In 1970, the first "Earth Day" was held in the United States, followed by the International Earth Day that is celebrated each year.

Skylab, a follow-on to Project Apollo requiring the direct use of Apollo hardware and space technology and involving 28 other nations, was launched in 1973 and produced an unprecedented wealth of scientific data. In 1975, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project was the first US/USSR cooperative space flight. When US astronauts and USSR cosmonauts rendezvoused in space for two days, Apollo-Soyuz showed that opposing super-Powers could be united in space exploration.

Recent years have involved unprecedented political change and have furthered international cooperation in space exploration to the benefit of all countries, as nations pool their scientific expertise and financial resources. Much of our attention today is focused on the application of space techniques to the understanding and solution of terrestrial problems, and this is entirely proper. But exploration of the solar system remains an enticing goal and an important objective as mankind seeks answers to fundamental questions of the origins of the universe and life itself. Project Apollo was an important early step in that ongoing process of seeking new knowledge, and we and our partners in the international Space Station Programme will move confidently down that road in the years ahead.

I mention the twenty-fifth anniversary of the lunar landing not with the intention of proposing a series of commemorative actions, though we might look to include some simple language in our report to the General Assembly. What is timely - and, we may hope, auspicious - about this anniversary in relation to the Committee's work today is the powerful expression given by the Apollo 11 mission to one of the cardinal principles of the 1967 outer space Treaty - the principle that the exploration of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries. First endorsed by the General Assembly in 1958 in resolution 1348 (XIII) establishing the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, this principle is one which the Committee has sought to apply to the fullest extent over the years. There is ample opportunity to broaden and strengthen its application at this session, through various items on the Committee's agenda.

For example, the agenda item on spin-off benefits affords us the opportunity to discuss how the benefits of space exploration can enrich the lives of people in a host of practical ways. We firmly believe that the multilateral process of dialogue and exchange of common experiences in this area can assist all of our efforts to apply space technology to the solution of problems on Earth. In addition, it will enlarge the opportunities for all nations to participate in the benefits derived from space exploration.

Another sterling example of how national space programmes can provide global benefits is in the area of satellite remote sensing. For more than 30 years, the United States has been operating satellite systems that have provided data on the land, oceans, and atmosphere on a public, non-discriminatory basis. Just recently, we have taken steps to maintain the long-term continuity of these important programmes.

My Government decided, on 5 May 1994, to converge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System and the Defense Meteorological Satellite Programme into a single national civilian operational satellite system. The converged system will achieve cost savings, consolidate resources and reduce duplication of efforts. The converged system will be open in character and will continue open distribution of data worldwide via direct broadcast and established distribution systems. Current international cooperation will continue, and plans are under way to expand collaboration with EUMETSAT and the European Space Agency (ESA).

President Clinton also signed on 5 May the United States Land Remote Sensing Strategy for assuring continuity of Landsat data. Under this plan, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of the Interior will work to maintain operation of Landsats 4 and 5; develop, launch and operate Landsat 7; and develop options for continuity of Landsat-type data beyond Landsat 7. These agencies will ensure that Landsat 7 data are available to all users worldwide at no more than the cost of filling user requests.

My delegation would like to join previous speakers in expressing satisfaction with the positive developments that have occurred in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees. The cooperative spirit in which we have worked over the past year is an encouraging sign that more can be accomplished in the future. We believe that the Committee is making real progress towards focussing its efforts on serving as an advocate for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space in the United Nations system. This has not been easy, and our most important accomplishments have come only after long and serious negotiations culminated by compromise on the part of all Member States. Although there have been some skeptics in the past, the positive results we see today demonstrate that the principle of consensus can work effectively.

I wish to recall that my delegation and others have put forward detailed proposals over the past decade for improving the organization of work in the Committee and in its Subcommittees. Indeed, the Committee has concluded that strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space implies the need for the Committee itself to improve, whenever necessary, the methods and forms of its work. We have always taken this mandate seriously. That is why, when taking stock of what has been achieved to date, we are gratified to see that many of these proposals have in fact been adopted. Of particular note have been the productive discussions in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in the work of which space scientists and experts are now playing a central role.

On the other hand, we are convinced that more can be done on the question of working methods, particularly in the Legal Subcommittee. We have the impression that there is a willingness on the part of all Member States to continue seeking these reforms, which will make this Committee a more effective and efficient body in the United Nations system.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my delegation's full commitment to working with all Member States on making the work of the Committee as relevant as possible to the ever-expanding opportunities for international cooperation in space exploration.

Mr. Louet (France) *(interpretation from French):* On behalf of my delegation allow me at the outset, Sir, to congratulate you most sincerely on your election as Vice-Chairman of our Committee. Through you, I should like to express, as did my colleagues who spoke earlier, great satisfaction at seeing Ambassador Hohenfellner continue to preside over our work. Our Committee can be very proud of the fact that the very high office that he occupies in Vienna has not distanced him from the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In doing so, Ambassador Hohenfellner is following a long tradition

in Austria, one that has been strengthened today by the fact that from now we shall be meeting in Vienna.

It is not my intention, during this general debate, to deal with all the problems that make up our agenda, since I will be able to speak on each individual item later. Nevertheless, I would like to stress four matters that have particularly attracted the attention of my delegation.

First, I shall speak to agenda item 4 entitled, as usual, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes."

France remains firmly attached to the principle that the prevention of the arms race in space should fall exclusively within the purview of the Conference on Disarmament. We feel that resolution 44/112, paragraph 5, whereby the General Assembly

> "Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects"

gives an exclusive mandate to the Conference on Disarmament and to its special committee for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Resolution 48/74, adopted at the last General Assembly session, reiterates this in its paragraph 5. Therefore we interpret paragraph 37 of resolution 48/39 of 10 December 1993, in which the General Assembly requests the outer space Committee to continue to examine, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space used for peaceful purposes, as asking it to discuss only the peaceful aspects of the use of outer space, without encroaching on the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament.

Secondly, I shall comment on the possible convening of a new UNISPACE conference, which is being very closely examined in Paris.

Since 1982, the date of the last UNISPACE Conference, space technology has made significant and substantial progress. Space has become an essential tool in fields as different as telecommunications, earth observation and meteorology, to mention but a few.

The idea of a new Conference is therefore not totally unjustified. The delegations of India and Pakistan have presented a number of possible areas for reflection that deserve to be studied in detail. In addition, the Secretariat has carried out a very interesting report - which we are still analysing in Paris - that provides a number of very relevant arguments in favour of convening UNISPACE 3. This has the advantage of furthering discussion of the site and the cost of such a Conference.

Nevertheless, as we see it, the convening of this Conference continues to depend on the definition of a satisfactory agenda. We must now devote most of our work to elaborating an agenda that takes account of the developments that have taken place during the 1980s. Hence a thorough study is being carried out in Paris; this will enable my delegation to contribute to perfecting a suitable agenda at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The success of such a conference will depend on the quality of the preparatory work that this Committee must undertake. Judging by the example of UNISPACE 2 as it has been reported on by the Secretariat, this runs the risk of taking some time. It is therefore up to our Committee to select subjects that are important and also achieve consensus among all delegations.

Thirdly, yesterday morning the Austrian delegation mentioned the problem of enlarging our Committee. I did not intend to discuss this matter in the general debate, but what was said has inspired me to focus my thoughts. I am ready to tackle the question with an open mind, but I am hampered by the abstract nature of the debate.

The question is not and should not be one of whether we wish to increase the number of members of our Committee, but rather of which countries are candidates for membership. In other words, it is not a matter of simply setting up a number of places that some countries to be decided on will fill, but of bringing in those countries that we feel should become members of our committee.

For this reason, when we begin discussion of this matter, I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, for an answer to this question: Which countries are candidates? At the moment I can see only Spain and the Republic of Korea, whose candidacies have already been put forward and which of course have our full support.

There is a danger that this discussion will stagnate if it remains on an abstract level.

Fourthly, I am very grateful to the Spanish ambassador for his suggestion at the beginning of this

session, during the adoption of our agenda, concerning the organization of the Committee's work.

I did not ask for the floor at that time because I understood that the Chairman wished to move quickly without bogging down in a procedural debate, and also because I understood that listing this question under the catch-all item "Other matters" did not rule out its consideration by a working group set up expressly to do so, as the Spanish ambassador requested.

My delegation very much hopes that this question will be analysed very carefully so that we can avoid the sorry spectacle we saw at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee.

The Chairman *(interpretation from French)*: I thank the representative of France for his very interesting proposals. I am sure that all the members of the Committee will take them into account, as they are all very important for the work of our Committee.

Mr. Wicks (United Kingdom): I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's satisfaction that Mr. Hohenfellner is again chairing the Committee and to offer our congratulations on your election, Sir. We are also grateful to the Chairmen of our two Subcommittees for their considerable efforts in seeking to promote constructive dialogue and in encouraging practical solutions to difficult problems. Our gratitude also goes to the Committee's Secretary and his colleagues in the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their support to the Main Committee and its Subcommittees.

The United Kingdom had long held the view that the issue of space debris warranted serious and formal consideration by Member States. We therefore welcomed the recommendation to refer the issue to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Good progress has been made, and we look forward to further substantive discussion on space debris.

In the area of nuclear power sources, the United Kingdom has made significant contributions. The need to ensure the safe use of this energy source, the consideration of the possible consequences to the environment, and the possible revision of the principles has been the backdrop to our thinking on this issue. We acknowledge the conclusions of the Legal Subcommittee and will participate accordingly in any further debate in respect of the possible revision of the Principles.

The United Kingdom acknowledges the call for a third UNISPACE conference. But we are yet to be convinced fully of the need for such a conference. We nevertheless remain open to persuasion. In any further consideration, we will need to weigh carefully any lessons that can be learned from our experience with UNISPACE 2.

My delegation hopes that as we discuss the various issues over the coming days the spirit of cooperation within this Committee to reach solutions through compromise and consensus will continue to prevail, and that satisfactory outcomes to our deliberations, acceptable to all Member States, can be found.

Mr. Ramírez Landázuri (Ecuador) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: First, I would like to express my satisfaction at seeing Ambassador Hohenfellner of Austria once again presiding over this Committee. I am sure that his knowledge and experience will help us to conclude these discussions successfully. I also congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Vice-Chairman.

I would also thank Ambassador Hohenfellner for the clear and precise report he presented at the beginning of our session. My delegation fully agrees with his statement that space science and technology are vital instruments for improving the economic and social conditions of all countries and for resolving global problems. We must therefore work together in this Committee to ensure that the results of our discussions produce real, concrete benefits for our peoples and thus for the international community.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Jasentuliyana and his staff on their successful transfer of the Office for Outer Space Affairs from New York to Vienna. My delegation assures him of its cooperation and assistance in the work ahead of us.

My delegation attaches particular importance to the sessions and reports of the Subcommittees. The serious and careful treatment of the subjects assigned to each Subcommittee, both from the legal and scientific point of view, and the incalculable value of their scientific and technical work, cannot be denied. We believe that an important step forward has been taken, which the Committee should endorse.

Allow me now to make a few comments on specific issues. With regard to outer space and the geostationary orbit, intensive and effective international

cooperation is absolutely necessary in order to disseminate the benefits of knowledge, programmes and projects equitably, bearing in mind the needs of the developing countries. Such international cooperation should promote the indigenous capacities of the underdeveloped countries, their programmes for the exploration and use of outer space and their knowledge of space science and technology and its applications. It should ensure easy access to information, data, materials, the results of research and so on, and, among other things, should promote and facilitate the transfer of technology.

The provision of resources for the funding of regional and subregional initiatives and projects in developing countries should be promoted and supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and, of course, by this Committee. In this context, I would like to refer to the establishment of an Andean subregional enterprise, or some other type of association, which would make it possible to exploit and use the satellite products of the Cotopaxi ground receiving station, which is located in Ecuador.

Ecuador's Centre for Integrated Remote Sensing of Natural Resources (CLIRSEN) is currently completing the contract for the beginning of a pre-feasibility study, based on the terms of reference approved by a technical commission created by the fifth Andean Presidential Council.

In this connection, we hope that countries with experience and resources in this sphere will share that experience with us and help us in our task. We also hope that the respective institutions responsible for this subject in the member countries of the Andean group will provide the necessary support and information required by the consultant for this study. I am referring to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

My delegation, like those of previous speakers, attaches special importance to the peaceful use of outer space and to its non-militarization. We welcome close cooperation between the United Nations bodies dealing with disarmament, such as the Conference on Disarmament, and COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies.

The pollution of outer space is also a subject of concern to my delegation. We are particularly worried about the increase in space debris, particularly in the geostationary orbit. This subject, which was addressed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, also warrants more careful study by the Legal Subcommittee. It could be useful to hold a seminar on this subject, under the auspices of the Legal Subcommittee, at one of its future sessions.

My delegation believes that the Committee should give a clear signal as to the need to develop a legal and institutional framework for both outer space and the geostationary orbit, in which the principles and norms governing the subjects before us should be coordinated with international law as a whole. Because of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit, we believe that whether or not it forms part of outer space, on which there is no unanimous view, it merits special legal treatment, a *sui generis* treatment taking into account its specific attributes and properties with relation to our planet. This position is reflected in the reports of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee.

We would thus have a secure frame of reference ensuring proper access and use, exclusively for peaceful purposes, of both outer space and the geostationary orbit for the benefit of all mankind, bearing in mind the interests of all States, particularly those which, because of a lack of technical and financial resources, have not yet developed their interests or exercised their rights, despite the geographical position which links them to the geostationary orbit.

Consequently, it is necessary to develop international instruments and to coordinate them with those which already exist.

My delegation considers that a third UNISPACE conference is necessary both in substance and in providing a forum, for it would be one of the most important forums in the post-cold-war world. In the Secretariat documentation we see a clear illustration of how a third UNISPACE conference could be organized. My delegation has taken note of the relevant paragraphs, specifically paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Secretariat report (A/AC.105/575), which set out some of the elements that justify holding the conference.

Nevertheless, my delegation would have preferred the Secretariat document to touch on some of the important subjects contained in the document submitted by the Group of 77 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.199). I refer in particular to the subject of jurisprudence, on which the Group of 77 suggests that further impetus should be given to the progressive development of international space law, particularly with respect to access to, and exploration, optimal utilization and benefits of the limited natural

resources of space for peaceful applications, and its relationship to international environmental law and the norms governing non-proliferation, international security and confidence-building measures.

With respect to increasing the membership of the Committee, my delegation is not opposed to the idea, provided that the criterion of regional balance is respected in the composition of the Committee.

I wish finally to support the request of the representative of Spain with respect to the due use of Spanish as an official language, particularly in the documents and reports of the Committee. This would, of course, greatly facilitate any negotiating process.

My delegation pledges its support to the Chairman and all the other officers with a view to achieving true progress at this session towards conclusions on the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Ionov (Bulgaria): I would like on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the vice-chairmanship of the Committee. Allow me also to express our pleasure at again seeing Ambassador Hohenfellner as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Austria has always chaired this body; also, the two United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were held here. Now that the full Committee is meeting for the first time at this venue, after the relocation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to Vienna, we would like to extend our warmest greetings to our new hosts.

As an original member of the outer space Committee, Bulgaria is convinced of the common interest of mankind to use outer space for peaceful purposes and is fully aware of the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law. One of the main purposes pursued by Bulgaria in United Nations forums on space is, through international cooperation, to serve the cause of the peaceful uses of outer space and the strengthening of efforts for security and mutual understanding in the world.

Let me take a minute to highlight the situation in Bulgaria regarding the reorganization of space research and application activities. Bulgaria is one of the pioneers in central-eastern Europe in reorganizing its space activities in line with the change from a centrally planned to a free market economy. After careful study of the functions and organizational charts of various national space agencies in Europe, a Bulgarian space agency was established in 1993. We used as prototype the Austrian space agency. The Bulgarian Space Agency (BSA) is intended to become a national centre and to coordinate space activities in Bulgaria. It has already laid the foundations for the participation of Bulgarian industry in space projects and spin-off benefits.

Coordinating the space activities of State, science and industry in a country where the economy is recovering slowly, with central structures falling apart - not to mention the uneasy situation in the Balkans - is an extremely difficult task. Bulgaria will not abandon space research, but will make choices, and focus on selected activities. The noble ambition of preserving Bulgaria's relatively high space scientific and technical potential cannot be successful without the assistance of such organizations and bodies as this Committee, the European Space Agency (ESA), the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Russian, German, Austrian and other space agencies. In that connection, we highly appreciate the recent cooperation agreements signed with the Russian and the German space agencies.

Bulgaria looks forward to participation in ESA programmes, which will help bridge the technological gap with the bigger member States and would provide the basis for advanced technological research. The European Space Agency is part of the European integration process and we wish to play a part in that process.

Regarding the work of the Subcommittees, we are pleased with the progress on some of the items on their agendas, especially that of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We would particularly mention the encouraging presentations on the subject of space debris; we expect to see speedy progress on that matter.

The papers regarding a third UNISPACE conference, submitted in the same Subcommittee, form a good basis for discussions during the current session.

It is the task of all mankind to seek measures to enhance international initiatives for the preservation of the space environment, to assist in the protection of the Earth environment and to achieve sustainable development. The new era in international relations makes possible a range of new space activities - even improving the effectiveness of preventive diplomacy and peace-making activities. As one distinguished United Nations official puts it, outer space has constituted an exemplary area for international cooperation and it is important that this cooperation be continued and expanded to serve the interests of all countries.

I would like to express the hope of my delegation that the work of the current session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be conducted in a constructive atmosphere, and that States will show good will and a desire for cooperation in the spirit of our times. My delegation is prepared to contribute to that end.

We hope to have the opportunity to speak later on specific agenda items.

Mr. Boroffice (Nigeria): First of all, the Nigerian delegation would like to join other delegations in expressing its pleasure at seeing Ambassador Hohenfellner again serving as Chairman of the Committee. His wealth of experience and demonstrated skills in successfully presiding over this Committee in the past gives us the confidence that we are again on the path to further achievements.

My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Chairmen of the two Subcommittees for successfully steering their sessions in 1994 and also to congratulate the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the smooth relocation of the secretariat to Vienna, which has not in any way diminished attendance at this session.

More than ever before, Nigeria recognizes the role of space science and technology in national development and human activities. Developments in this area continue to exert their influence in one way or the other on the societal, technological and cultural progress of all countries, large or small, developed or developing. The application of space science and technology will therefore play an increasing and indispensable role in the development of developing countries.

The Government of Nigeria is putting together a national policy on space science and technology which will be cost effective and ensure maximum use of opportunities offered by the existing space programmes of other countries and the United Nations and the development of local capabilities in matters of space science and technology.

Since assistance from, and cooperation with, other countries are vital to achieving the goals of the policy, the Government of Nigeria will encourage regional and international cooperation as a way of sharing the burden of major enterprises in space science and technology. My delegation is glad to report in this regard that the third United Nations/European Space Agency (ESA) workshop on Basic Space Science for Developing Countries was held in Nigeria in October 1993 as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The workshop, which was hosted by the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure on behalf of the Government of Nigeria, was co-sponsored by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations, the European Space Agency and the Government of Nigeria.

In February 1994 the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS) in Nigeria organized a workshop on the application of remote sensing in national development for policy makers in government Ministries and extra-ministerial departments.

Before the end of 1994 the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure will, in co-operation with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), organize a workshop on the application of remote sensing in agriculture.

My delegation wishes to use this opportunity again to reiterate the readiness of the Government of Nigeria to host the proposed Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education.

One of the components of the space programme contained in our National Policy on Space Science and Technology is the establishment of a National Remote Sensing Centre. This Centre, which has been established in Jos, will take off before the end of 1994 with the acquisition of a high resolution picture transmission system that will receive information from NOAA satellites. The Centre will coordinate and harmonize all remote sensing activities in the country, including housing the central archive of remote sensing data in Nigeria. In collaboration with the Nigerian Meteorological Services, the Centre will set up receivers for satellite meteorological data at appropriate locations in the country for operational and research purposes.

My delegation notes the reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-first session, as contained in document A/AC.105/574, and that of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-third session, as contained in document A/AC.105/573. We are pleased that substantial progress has been made on a number of items listed on the agenda. It is particularly encouraging that the subject of space debris should have been on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We believe that the decisions reflected in paragraphs 69, 70 and 71 of its report (A/AC.105/571) represent significant progress towards evolving appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space missions. We also note the

views expressed in the Subcommittees on the question of access to the geostationary orbit, and welcome the decision of the Subcommittees to continue discussions on this issue in the hope that an early resolution will be reached.

My delegation notes the report prepared by the secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/AC.105/575) on the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It is our belief that this report will provide a good basis for further discussions on this subject. We therefore look forward to a more extensive discussion in this session which will lead to an early conclusion.

Ms. Skoog (Sweden): This is the first time the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has met in Vienna since the transfer of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The continued chairmanship of Ambassador Hohenfellner guarantees the continuity of the Committee's work. Let us hope that this new setting will invigorate our work, as is required by the new tasks and challenges we face.

On our agenda for this meeting we have a number of important issues. Let me just elaborate on a few of these.

Sweden has long advocated that the issue of space debris be dealt with within COPUOS, and we were very satisfied with the decision last year to include the item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The initial discussions in the Subcommittee proved constructive, and my delegation fully supports the recommendation that the initial emphasis should be put on making a thorough scientific and technical assessment of the present situation, in order to develop a common understanding of the issues involved and an appropriate definition of the problem. In this work, particular attention should be paid to the environmental aspects - something Sweden also underlined in the recent Commission on Sustainable Development. Only when we have a common understanding will it be possible to decide on further action to be taken. As a first step, an inventory of measures already undertaken by spacefaring nations to reduce the creation of new debris could be made. In order to make this information available to all countries, an overview of good management practices could be compiled and distributed.

Almost two years have now passed since the adoption of the Principles on nuclear power sources, and a recommendation on their revision must be made during this session. Discussions in the two Subcommittees demonstrated broad satisfaction with the Principles in their present form, and there was a consensus that it would be premature to undertake a revision at this early stage. Sweden shares the opinion that priority should be given to the implementation of the Principles, and that a revision should be undertaken only when we have elaborated a formula significantly strengthening them. For our further consideration of this item, Sweden's point of departure remains that in revising the Principles, it is important that they be harmonized with other, general safety principles for exposure to ionizing radiation.

We earlier expressed an open attitude towards the proposal to organize a third UNISPACE conference. At the same time, my delegation has stressed that careful consideration of the objectives of such a conference is essential. The purpose must be clear, and the time chosen must allow for adequate planning. We must also consider to what extent such a conference may achieve goals that cannot be obtained through the intensified or more focused work of, for example, COPUOS itself.

In our opinion, there certainly are a number of issues which merit further in-depth discussion. Some are dealt with in the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation in space - for example, how space technology can be used in support of international peace and security, and how the United Nations itself can best benefit from advances in space. A matter of high priority to Sweden is also the use of space technology to promote sustainable development, and in particular to implement the recommendations of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. A further consideration of the possibilities of preventing and mitigating natural catastrophes would also seem appropriate.

International cooperation and the transfer of relevant know-how are necessary in order to facilitate the build-up of indigenous capabilities in developing countries, *inter alia* for planning and environmental purposes. Sweden recognizes the central role of the United Nations Programme of Space Applications in this process, and continues to actively support the Programme through annual training courses in remote-sensing education for educators in Stockholm and Kiruna. The fourth course is currently taking place and a fifth course is proposed for implementation in 1995.

Let me now turn to a matter of concern. During the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, it was evident

to all delegations that much could be done to improve the effectiveness of the work of the Subcommittee. Most Member States, as well as the United Nations itself, are dealing with severe economic constraints - something we must take into account when planning our work here. It has been proposed to suspend the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources of the Legal Subcommittee for a year. In light of this, we think that it is appropriate for the Committee to consider shortening next year's session of the Legal Subcommittee to two weeks.

In order to enhance the relevance of our work within the Committee, the composition of this forum needs to reflect the true range of the international space community. It is important to provide for the inclusion of States with relevant technology and expertise in the area. We also believe that our discussion here, as well as in other United Nations organizations, would benefit from mirroring a broader spectrum of views. As was previously stated, Sweden is looking forward to the early conclusion of the Committee's consideration of the question of its membership. We fully support the efforts of the Chairman of the Committee to find a universally acceptable solution to this important issue.

The Chairman: The next speaker on my list is the representative of the Committee on Space Research, Mr. Siegfried Bauer.

Mr. Bauer (Committee on Space Research): The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) is most pleased to be able to address the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Speaking as a representative of the largest international community of scientists involved in basic research in space, let me strike an optimistic chord. It has often been said in the past, though perhaps more officiously than officially, that the main thrust behind the very elaborate space research programmes of many of the advanced nations is competition inspired by the cold war. Now, almost half a decade after the end of the cold war, I am pleased to be able to say that the experience of the past few years indicates that this simplistic and stark statement is rather far from the truth, that undeniably behind such operating factors as politics and prestige there are at work in the international community other important mechanisms that sustain efforts of many nations. These mechanisms encourage the programmes of many nations to strive for a better intellectual understanding of the universe in which we live and of the place therein that is our home, the Earth.

Despite decreasing funding and curtailment of financial support, the international scientific community has not renounced its ambitious long-term plans for exploration of nearby space and the distant universe. The nefarious effects of the scarcity of funds and of the disbanding of some scientific groups which find themselves in difficult situations are to a non-negligible extent compensated for by two factors. First, due to steady technological programmes, a number of measurements have become effectively less expensive, if counting bits of information obtained per dollar spent. Secondly, the improvement of the international political climate has helped to tear down barriers between scientific groups in various countries. As a result, new and advanced schemes of cooperation between nations can be envisaged which combine expertise in a given field with the complementary know-how of new partners to allow for qualitative jumps in technological possibilities and in the interpretation of data.

COSPAR welcomes these trends and, indeed, looks forward to a continuous crop of new data brought back both by better utilization of existing resources and by new and exciting scientific investigations in space planned for the coming decade.

Our community notes with great satisfaction that steps toward effective involvement in space research are now being undertaken by a number of quickly developing nations in South-East Asia and the Pacific area. This year's Asia-Pacific Conference on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications, held in January 1994 in Bangkok, and the decision adopted by participants to work toward a more permanent association of countries in matters of space activities is additional proof, if ever such a confirmation were needed, that on this eve of the twenty-first century, space activity has become a legitimate and normal concern of a substantial section of the international community.

COSPAR looks upon these new trends with great interest and expectations. We are particularly satisfied that a strong and vigorous, yet purely research-oriented, component of these new tendencies is becoming more present in our own internal development. Last November the first COSPAR Colloquium to be held in the South-East Asian region took place in Taipei. We look forward to involvement in another space science meeting of regional interest that is proposed by Iran.

COSPAR is also very much encouraged by the fact that some of the new countries that have recently emerged in Central and Eastern Europe have expressed interest in joining our organization, and we would certainly warmly welcome any such intentions manifested by the countries of the South-East Asian and Pacific regions.

The objective expressed in priority agenda item number 4, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes", has always been pursued by COSPAR, which deems this condition essential for true scientific activity. We are ready to contribute our expertise to the efforts of the international community in this quest.

Our scientists, coming from so many nations, so many geographical areas, and working on a very wide range of problems of both a highly theoretical as well as a very practical nature, are very well-placed and qualified to foresee the dangers of rash and careless actions in space, be they of a military, industrial or commercial character. Our scientists are united in their conviction and desire to work with the international community of nations to prevent blunders difficult to remedy retroactively.

Let me add a personal note as the Chairman of COSPAR's Panel on Potentially Environmentally Detrimental Activities in Space: We shall continue to keep a watchful eye on all developments in space that could potentially perturb our environment or that of our planetary neighbours.

I wish the Committee, on behalf of COSPAR, most fruitful deliberations during this session.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.